

www.london.ca[Home](#) > [City Hall](#) > [Newsroom](#)

The Corporation of The City of London January 17, 2008

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Water Chemistry Changes to Reduce Lead Levels

Over the past week, the Lake Huron Primary Water Supply System has initiated phased-in changes to London's water supply to minimize the uptake of lead from lead service pipes in plumbing. These changes are intended to reduce lead levels in the ten per cent of London homes with older lead water services.

Following investigation with an environmental consultant, bench and field testing; City staff have determined that increasing pH levels within allowable drinking water limits will reduce the lead uptake that is causing elevated lead readings in some homes. This action follows many of the recommendations in the Corrosion Control in Drinking Water Distribution Systems document circulated by Health Canada last summer, and monitoring will follow the most recent changes enacted by Provincial regulations.

"We're confident that these small changes will significantly reduce the amount of lead in homes with older lead service pipes", said Pat McNally, Director - Water Environment & Customer Relations. "We're very pleased to have found ways of reducing the impact of lead, and will continue in our efforts to mitigate lead in the water, while at the same time ensuring excellent water quality as it relates to over 140 other parameters covering chemical, physical and microbiological characteristics."

The City of London has already established a sentinel monitoring program to evaluate the effectiveness of the changes. The procedure and sample group criteria were determined in consultation with water industry experts engaged by the MOE. In addition, the City will be establishing a Community Lead Testing Program to meet the Provincial requirements to submit lead monitoring results by April 15.

While individuals will not notice any change in the taste or smell of the water, water customers in the commercial, industrial and institutional sectors have been given advance notice, as the changes may impact those who use water as a process ingredient or for heating and cooling systems.

The City of London's drinking water system continues to meet or exceed Ontario Ministry of the Environment standards.

